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Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

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Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/53/238/Add.1 on the financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided the Committee with additional information and clarifications.

2. By its resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the Security Council decided on the deployment in Kosovo, under United Nations auspices, of civilian and security presences and authorized the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant international organizations, to establish an international civil presence in Kosovo. Paragraph 11 of the Council's resolution outlines the main responsibilities of the international civil presence in Kosovo.

3. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 9 of his report (A/53/238/Add.1), that pursuant to the provisions of section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, he is seeking authority to enter into commitments with assessment in an amount not exceeding $200 million, inclusive of the amount of $50 million already authorized by the Advisory Committee. According to the Secretary-General, the commitment authority of up to $200 million is required to meet the preliminary operating costs of UNMIK from inception until such time as a full budget will be presented to the General Assembly in the Fall.

4. The Advisory Committee points out that, owing to the exigencies of the situation, the Secretary-General has been unable to substantiate his request with the necessary analysis and information. The Advisory Committee notes the explanation of the Secretariat that, pending the return of the advance team, it would be extremely difficult to provide details. A rationale for the figure of $200 million was not provided. Given the size of the Mission and the urgency involved, the request of the Secretary-General is by way of an advance, which will represent only a small portion of what will likely be required during the mandated period of 12 months. The Advisory Committee was assured, and expects, that the actual budget, which will be submitted in October 1999, will be formulated in the usual fashion with full disclosure, explanation and justification.

5. The report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council of 12 June 1999 (S/1999/672) contains a preliminary operational concept for the overall organization of the civilian presence in Kosovo; the annex to that report outlines

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a preliminary description of the structure of UNMIK. The preliminary concept of operations for the Mission was approved by the Security Council in document S/1999/689 of 17 June 1999. The Advisory Committee was informed during the deliberations that a more detailed concept of operations for UNMIK would be presented by the Secretary-General to the Security Council. The Secretary-General's report (S/1999/779) was issued after the Advisory Committee had completed its consideration of this matter and thus was not taken into account by the Committee, although it was provided with an outline of the organization of the Mission.

6. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report (A/53/238/Add.1), the Mission will be headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General whose office will include units for political, economic and legal advice, military liaison and public information. The interim civil administration component of UNMIK will comprise three offices, namely: the Office of the Police Commissioner (approximately 3,000), the Office for Civil Affairs and the Office for Judicial Affairs. (The requirements of the latter two offices are in the process of being identified.) The Committee stresses that all personnel for UNMIK should be obtained in full compliance with financial and personnel rules and regulations of the United Nations and other relevant decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly.

7. The Committee notes from paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report that, given the time required for the preparation of a full budget and subsequent action thereon, "it is essential that UNMIK be provided not only with commitment authority to meet the costs of the operation, but also with funds". The Advisory Committee was informed by the Controller that, out of $50 million of commitment authority concurred in earlier by the Committee, approximately $20 million had been committed during the first two weeks to meet the immediate start-up costs of UNMIK.

8. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNMIK will require significant amounts of readily available cash, owing to the absence of United Nations military contingents where Member States provide initial financing of their contingents and subsequently receive reimbursement from the United Nations.

9. The Advisory Committee, pursuant to the provisions of section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A, recommends that the Secretary-General be granted authority to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $200 million, inclusive of the amount of $50 million already authorized by the Advisory Committee. In considering the requested assessment, the General Assembly, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/233, may wish to take into account the cash flow situation, the timing of the submission of the budget, its size, nature and scope and the factors referred to in paragraph 8 above.